

STR8 UP AND PROVINCIAL GANG STRATEGY

ISSUE:

The ministry is committed to addressing gang-related crime and violence in Saskatchewan's communities through supporting the development and implementation of a provincial gang strategy.

KEY MESSAGES:

- **Supported by Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB), STR8 UP will work with provincial stakeholders, including First Nations communities, police agencies, and the private sector to develop a provincial gang strategy.**
- **The development of a provincial gang strategy must be driven by the community for it to be successful.**

BACKGROUND:

Public Information:

- Saskatchewan has a high concentration of gang members on a per capita basis and the associated harms affect both our communities and our institutions.
- STR8 UP is a non-profit organization that provides case management support and training to ex-gang members through outreach, personal healing, professional development and community education.
- In December 2017, STR8 UP received \$188,000 from Public Safety Canada to develop the provincial gang strategy.
- A committee consisting of STR8 UP staff, Integrated Justice Services (through CSWB), the RCMP and the Researcher Dr. Robert Henry coordinated Phase 1 of the strategy development
- To inform the development of the strategy, a three-day forum was held in May 2018. Over 80 key stakeholders/leaders participated in the forum. In addition to this, an electronic survey was completed by an estimated 500 individuals. The purpose of the survey was to acquire community gang perspectives from a wide array of people across the province.

Further to this, six community consultations took place in communities that were not well represented at forum on in the survey.

- In October 2018, STR8 UP released the report *Building Healthier Communities: Final Report on Community Recommendations for the Development of the Saskatchewan Prevention/Intervention Street Gang Strategy (SPISGS)*. The report contains the 24 recommendations centered on 5 themes:
 - Infrastructure and leadership;
 - Addressing trauma, colonization, and settler colonialism;
 - Knowledge translation and mobilization;
 - Addressing systemic oppression and structural issues of poverty and homelessness; and
 - Institutional supports.

- In September 2018, the Ministry of Corrections and Policing provided a developmental grant to STR8 UP to continue the development and implementation of the SPISGS. The grant, in the amount of \$49,500, will allow STR8 UP to continue community consultations and establish a steering committee to guide the implementation of the strategy across Saskatchewan.